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19 May 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Training

SUBJECT : Training of Dependent Wives

1. My response to the request relayed to me today by R/TR concerning the subject is as follows:

- a. SIWA trains wives in the Orientation for Overseas. As the title indicates, this course is rudimentary; it is limited to two days and is pitched for employees and dependent wives anticipating their first tour overseas for the Agency. About three hours are spent on special-problem briefings--transmitting knowledge and guidelines concerning medical, security, cover, and legal problems. About 10 hours are used for beginning to train the group to develop overseas adaptation skills or for providing them selected insights on the characteristics of the specific area of assignment.
- b. Until the fall of 1969, the rudimentary training indicated in the last sentence of (a) was limited to one hour's duration and dealt only with general problems of adaptation abroad. Since that time, innovations have been carried out as follows:
 - 1) The class spends a half-hour drawing lessons from a film ("Goodwill Ambassadors") on adjustment problems of an American family overseas;
 - 2) Forty-five minutes are spent on the "keys" to better adaptation abroad--correcting misperceptions and raising the awareness of one's own values and behavior;
 - 3) One hour is given to our own film of Mr. James Bostain of FSI, who reinforces what we do in (b2) above;

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- 4) The session for women only has been extended from one hour to two; a panel of two to four female returnees is used instead of one standby wife; and the participants for the panel are selected so as to match their foreign areas of experience with the areas of students' destinations.
- 5) A one-hour slide showing is tailored to the individual posts of assignment and illustrates kinds of adaptation problems and special area characteristics to be anticipated.
- 6) A kit of basic country materials is provided for the specific country of assignment;
- 7) A half hour is spent providing brief guidance to each group for a particular region of the world, on the significance of certain items in the country kits.

c. Course critiques submitted by dependents often urge that the time be extended to three or more days. This sentiment was widespread in the class which ran on 11 - 12 May 1971.

2. We also provide a one-hour briefing on CIA's role in the U.S. intelligence system, in a TSD program for dependent wives.

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